

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

LEON E. MORRIS,

Plaintiff,

v.

JOELSON,

Defendant(s).

Case No. 1:20-cv-00165-NONE-EPG (PC)

ORDER REGARDING EARLY SETTLEMENT
CONFERENCE

ORDER DIRECTING CLERK TO SERVE
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL DAVID
YENGOYAN AND SUPERVISING DEPUTY
ATTORNEY GENERAL LAWRENCE BRAGG
WITH A COPY OF: 1) PLAINTIFF'S
COMPLAINT (ECF NO. 7); 2) THE
SCREENING ORDER (ECF NOS. 9 & 10);
AND 3) THIS ORDER

Leon Morris ("Plaintiff") is a state prisoner proceeding *pro se* and *in forma pauperis* in this civil rights action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. The Court has screened Plaintiff's complaint and found it states at least one cognizable claim. At least one defendant has waived service of process.

The Court now directs the parties to participate in a settlement conference before a Magistrate Judge to see if the case can reach a settlement before going further in litigation. Plaintiff will be transported to the settlement conference and defense counsel will appear in person.¹ Neither side is waiving any claims, defenses, or objections by participating in this

¹ In light of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and the evolving coronavirus protocols, the settlement conference may be conducted telephonically or by some other remote means.

1 settlement conference.

2 Defense counsel is directed to consider Plaintiff's claim(s) and speak with Plaintiff
3 following this order.² If, after investigating Plaintiff's claim(s) and speaking with Plaintiff, and
4 conferring with defense counsel's supervisor, defense counsel in good faith finds that a
5 settlement conference would not be productive at this time, defense counsel may opt out of this
6 settlement conference by filing a notice with the Court, in which case the matter will proceed to
7 litigation without an early settlement conference.

8 If defense counsel does not opt out of the settlement conference, the Court will issue
9 separate order(s) setting the settlement conference and detailing the pre-settlement conference
10 procedures in due course.

11 Two weeks after the issuance of the order setting the settlement conference, in order to
12 better inform all parties and have a meaningful conference, the Court is requiring that both
13 parties disclose certain documents to each other about the case, as listed below. These
14 documents are relevant to the case and will most likely be disclosed in discovery shortly if this
15 case goes to litigation.³

16 Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

- 17 1. Within forty-five days from the date of service of this order, the assigned
18 Deputy Attorney General shall either: (1) file a notice that Defendant(s) opt out
19 of the settlement conference; or (2) contact ADR Coordinator Sujean Park
20 (spark@caed.uscourts.gov) to schedule the settlement conference.⁴ If the
21 assigned Deputy Attorney General does not opt out of the settlement conference,
22 the Court will issue an order setting a settlement conference. That order will
23 include the date of the conference and the Magistrate Judge who will oversee the
24

25 ² In light of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and the evolving coronavirus protocols, the parties
26 may confer by letter.

27 ³ If any party has a legal objection to providing a particular document, that party shall file and serve a
28 notice describing its objection.

⁴ The Court may issue a separate order setting a scheduling conference and ordering initial disclosures, or
may already have done so. If difficulties arise in scheduling the settlement conference prior to the initial
scheduling conference, the parties may file a request for the Court to continue the initial scheduling conference.

conference, and may also include procedures required by that Judge.⁵

2. If a settlement conference is set, no later than two weeks after the date of service of the order setting the settlement conference, each party shall send the other parties, or their attorneys (if represented), the documents listed below. The parties only need to provide documents related to the claim(s) that the Court allowed to proceed past the screening stage. Additionally, Defense counsel does not need to include any documents that defense counsel believes are confidential or subject to the official information privilege at this time. Plaintiff does not need to request any documents from the institution at this time. Plaintiff only needs to provide these documents if Plaintiff already has them in his or her possession. Defense counsel shall send copies of the following documents to Plaintiff and Plaintiff shall send copies to counsel for Defendant(s):

- a. Documents regarding exhaustion of Plaintiff's claims, including 602s, Form 22s, and responses from the appeals office;
- b. All non-confidential documents regarding Rules Violation Reports, if any exist, associated with the incident(s) alleged in the complaint, including disciplinary charges and findings;
- c. All of Plaintiff's medical records related to the incident and/or condition at issue in the case, if any exist;
- d. Chronos for transfer or Administrative Segregation placement related to the incident(s) alleged in the complaint, if any exist; and
- e. Non-confidential incident reports regarding the use of force incident(s) alleged in the complaint, if any exist;

Additionally, the parties may send any other documents related to the case that the parties believe will assist in the settlement conference.

3. The parties remain obligated to keep the Court informed of their current address.

⁵ The undersigned will not be the Magistrate Judge overseeing the settlement conference.

Any change of address must be reported promptly to the Court in a separate document captioned for this case and entitled "Notice of Change of Address."

See L.R. 182(f).

4. The Clerk of Court shall serve Deputy Attorney General David Yengoyan and Supervising Deputy Attorney General Lawrence Bragg with a copy of: (1) Plaintiff's complaint (ECF No. 7); (2) the screening order (ECF Nos. 9 & 10); and (3) this order.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: July 27, 2020

/s/ Eric P. Gray
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE